

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS) – KNOWN AS COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 31st JANUARY 2017 AT THE MONTAGU CENTRE, 21 MAPLE STREET, LONDON W1T 4BE  
SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 26 -32 OF THE MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS)**

<b>PRESENT</b>	
PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENTS	Louise Freedman, Henry Cohn, Harry Jacobi
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Simon Benscher, Jackie Richards, Graham Carpenter, Robin Moss
RABBIS	Danny Rich (Senior Rabbi & Chief Executive), Richard Jacobi, Charley Baginsky, Deborah Kahn-Harris
COUNCIL	Alice Alphandary (SLLS), Janet Berkman (Peterborough), Bryan Diamond (LJS), Barbara Fidler (LJS), Judith Fox (WCLS), Gary Freedman (EL&ELS), Jane Greenfield (Southgate), Val Harrison (Birmingham), Bob Kamall (EL&ELS), Karen Katz (Brighton & Hove), Josie Kinchin (Finchley), Mimi Konigsberg (NPLS), Stuart Macdonald (BoD), Robin Samson (Kehillah), Alan Solomon (Mosaic), Peter Bennett-Speck (Brighton & Hove), Richard Stevens (EL&ELS)
IN ATTENDANCE	Alexandra Simonon (minutes), Rebecca Fetterman, Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Anna Craven
	<b>OPENING PRAYER</b> Rabbi Harry Jacobi
	<p><b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Simon Benscher welcomed the new Chair of West Central Liberal Synagogue, Judith Fox, and the new Chair of Kehillah North London, Robin Samson.</p> <p><b>APOLOGIES</b> from Rebecca Birk (Finchley), Janet Burden (Ealing), Ros Clayton (Reading and York), Nigel Cole (NPLS), Dee Drapkin (Birmingham), Jeromé Freedman (Vice President), Tina Gold (EL&amp;ELS), Aaron Goldstein (NPLS), Andrew Goldstein (President), Sharon Goldstein (Vice President), Peter Gordon (Nottingham), Ed Herman (BoNO), Lucian Hudson (BoNO), David Hulbert (EL&amp;ELS), Jonny Hurst (EL&amp;ELS), Margaret Jacobi (Birmingham), Alex Kinchin-Smith (Finchley), Jennifer Lennard (BKY), Ashley Marks (EL&amp;ELS), Lea Muehlstein (NPLS), Ben Rich (York), Ruth Selo (Eastbourne) and Gillian Wolfe (Stevenage) were noted.</p>
	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 2016 AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>One correction was noted: the new community is in East London and Essex, not the East End. The minutes were signed as an accurate record.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
	<p><b>ADDRESS: Simon Johnson</b></p> <p>Simon Johnson, Chief Executive of the Jewish Leadership Council, presented the work of the JLC past and present and its relationship with its members.</p>
	<p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>Votes were taken for the reapproval of communities that have changed legal status since joining Liberal Judaism (ULPS), being Finchley Liberal Synagogue (now a company limited by guarantee) and East London &amp; Essex Liberal Synagogue (formerly Bet Tikvah and Woodford Liberal Synagogue). Both were unanimously passed.</p>

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**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT - Simon Benscher**

SB continues his work with the Alliance. He has had several contacts with Geoffrey Marx and with Robert Weiner.

Work is also continuing with LBC, and Noeleen Cohen will attend the February meeting of BoNO.

SB has visited several communities, including Bristol last weekend where he received very positive feedback on the work of LJY. SB reports that LJ’s connections with its constituent communities are getting greater and stronger.

Great work is also being carried out on fundraising.

Harry Jacobi paid tribute to SB for his work in communities and also on HMD.

Richard Jacobi thanked SB for taking a day out to attend the funeral in Dublin of Joan Finkel.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – Rabbi Danny Rich**

DR explained that 2016 has been a tough year for LJ financially, with an overall loss of £60k. This is explained mainly by two factors: a drop in patrons’ funding, and a drop in non-members funerals. As a result, this year’s budget is the tightest ever, with a notable reduction on LJ’s dependency on non-members funerals.

LJ’s focus had not been on fundraising, in the past, but this is now changing and we are looking for fundraising opportunities.

Nicola Nathan has been welcomed as new Chair of the Council of Patrons.

We raised £60k in donations this January.

LJ’s fundraising strategy is being led by Charley Baginsky, and we are hoping that there will be no deficit at the end of 2017.

DR thanked the community treasurers for their prompt payments recently, which has been very helpful.

The LJ website will soon have a ‘donate’ button, and we are doing some work on legacies too.

An update on partnerships:

LBC has been and remains a vital part of our spending, and we keep working with the College in close partnership.

Alliance: there is a slight delay in the new Israel Desk coordinator starting to work because of a visa issue, but this is being sorted and work should start soon. The funding for this comes from outside LJ.

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<p>MRJ: LJ and the MRJ jointly led a very successful teachers conference. The Melton course is a great success and could not have taken place without the joint work of LJ and the Lyons Institute (West London).</p> <p>WCLS has just appointed Jackie Tabick as their rabbi and the MC will work very closely with WCLS to make the MC a buzzing centre.</p> <p>BKY will also be using the MC for their services. For the first time in a long time, the MC is used for Friday night services every week of the month, and hopefully soon it will be used for Saturday morning services every week too.</p> <p>We had our first monthly early morning service last week at the MC, and in February we are starting a monthly lunchtime study session lead by Danny Rich and Neil Janes.</p> <p>LJ will be holding its first Annual Day for Chairs and Treasurers on Sunday 3 September.</p> <p>RJ asked a question on the financial impact of Brexit on LJ. DR explained that the only area that might be problematic in this regard is our programmes abroad because of the dollar rate.</p>
<p><b>LEO BAECK COLLEGE</b></p> <p>Submitted a written report.</p> <p>The College has received 10 applications this year, and seven candidates have been shortlisted. The interviews will be held in March.</p> <p>The College has lots of exciting events coming up , and can provide electronic or paper versions of all publicity to communities who ask.</p> <p>Celia Surget is running the Paris Marathon to raise money for LBC.</p> <p>DKH thanked DR and SB for their continued support.</p> <p>This year Chaim Casas will graduate from LBC, becoming the first Spanish progressive rabbi in history.</p>
<p><b>RABBINIC CONFERENCE</b></p> <p>Submitted a written report.</p> <p>Pulpit swaps update: Birmingham and Southgate will be the first communities to take part in this scheme, this coming Shabbat. Smaller congregations without rabbis will also be able to participate.</p> <p>LJ leaflets are being refreshed. If any of your communities feel like there is a gap in the offer, please let RJ know.</p>
<p><b>MUSIC UPDATE</b></p> <p>Graham Carpenter invited everyone to sign up for Liberal Judaism’s first ever Annual Music Day on the 10th of June at Northwood (the day before the Day of Celebration).</p> <p>LJ is also organising its first ever songwriting competition. Further details are on the music page of the LJ website.</p> <p>The LJ online digital musical library will be launched soon. GC expressed thanks to Ruth Colin from NPLS who has done most of the work for this. More details on the library can be obtained from Ruth on <a href="mailto:music@npls.org.uk">music@npls.org.uk</a></p>

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	<p>It is Shabbat Resouled’s 10th anniversary on the 21st of April at Finchley progressive Synagogue - all welcome.</p> <p>Alice Alphandary asked Graham to consider including sephardic and mizrahi traditions in LJ’s musical tradition.</p>
	<p><b>YOUTH</b></p> <p>Becca Fetterman presented a report on Youth and LJY. Israel Tour numbers are great. ‘Taster Days’ have been very successful. 100% of previously undecided young people who attended a taster day have signed up to israel Tour. BF encouraged all communities to send their young people to a taster day.</p> <p>LJY welcomes invitations from communities to come and lead programmes and activities. LJY can be contacted on <a href="mailto:ljyoffice@liberaljudaism.org">ljyoffice@liberaljudaism.org</a></p>
	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rabbi Harry Jacobi said he would like to encourage all communities to send representation at Council more regularly.</li> <li>● He also drew attention to the letter in The Times signed by 32 rabbis.</li> <li>● Alice Alphandary expressed her thanks to the staff at the MC, particularly Aaron Aronson and Simon Rothstein for their help with the launch of the SLLS’s flat for refugees project.</li> <li>● Refugees: DR would like to see LJ think of ways in which communities can become sponsors of refugees</li> </ul>
	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday 25 April 2017</b></p>